England — Board of Trade Duplicate

REPRESENTATION

FROM THE

COMMISSIONERS for TRADE and PLANTATIONS,

To the Right Honourable the

Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

In Parliament Aſſembled,

In purſuance of their Lordſhips Addreſſes to His Majeſty of the *1ſt* and *5th* of *April*, 1734. relating to the State of the *Britiſh* Iſlands in *America*, with regard to their TRADE, their STRENGTH, and FORTIFICATIONS, and to what may be further neceſſary for the Encouragement of their Trade, and Security of thoſe Iſlands: As likewiſe to ſuch Encouragements as may be neceſſary to engage the Inhabitants of the *Britiſh* Colonies on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Induſtry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and of ſuch other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the ſaid Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*.

LONDON:

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To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

May it please Your Lordships,

HIS Majesty hath been pleased by His Orders of the Fifth and Sixth of *April*, 1734, upon Your Lordships Addresses of the First and Fifth of the same Month, to direct the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to prepare, during the Recess of Parliament, and lay before your Lordships at your next Meeting, a State of the *British Islands* in *America*, with Regard to their Trade, their Strength, and Fortifications, together with their Opinion what may be further necessary for the Encouragement of their Trade, and Security of those Islands; and also to revise and consider the several Proposals that may at any time have been laid before them, relating to such Encouragements as may be necessary to engage the Inhabitants of the *British* Colonies on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Industry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and likewise of such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*.

In treating these Subjects, we shall follow the Order observed by your Lordships in your Addresses to His Majesty, which leads us to begin with what relates to the Trade, the Strength, and Fortifications of our Island Colonies in *America*, namely, *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, the *Leeward Islands*, the *Bahama's*, and the *Bermuda* or *Summer Islands*, of which the Three first mentioned are called *Sugar Colonies*, and are of great Importance to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

The Trade of *Jamaica* consists in an Exchange of its Productions and Merchandize, for the Manufactures and Merchandize of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, *Africa*, the *British* Colonies on the Continent of *America*, *Madera*, and the Bay of *Honduras*.

The principal Articles that we export thither, are Woollen Cloths and Stuffs of all Sorts, wrought Silks, plain and brocaded, Hats of various

 kinds,

kinds, Leather both tanned and wrought, *German* and *Dutch* Linens, Cordage, Bees-wax, ſeveral ſorts of Drugs and Grocery, Paper, Wine, Soap, Tea, Coffee, Arrack, *Eaſt India* Silks, Stuffs and Calicoes, and ſeveral other Particulars of leſs Conſideration.

In Exchange for theſe Goods, the People of *Jamaica* furniſh us with the natural Productions and Merchandize of that Iſland, Sugar, Rum, and Moloſſes, Cotton, Piemento (commonly called *Jamaica Pepper)* Ginger, Fuſtick, Ebony, *Lignum Vitæ*, Mahogony, with many other kinds of valuable Timber and Wood proper for Dying, and for the Uſe of our Cabinet-makers, and Carpenters; we likewiſe import Indigo from *Jamaica*, which was formerly a Production of that Iſland, but is now brought thither from the *French* Colonies.

The annual Amount of our Exports to *Jamaica*, at a Medium of Four Years from *Chriſtmas*, 1728, to *Chriſtmas*, 1732, as it ſtands computed in the Cuſtom Houſe Accounts, appears to have been *L.* 147,675 2 3¼

The Medium of our Imports from *Jamaica* in the ſame Year, is——————————*L.* 539,499 18 3¼

So that the annual Exceſs of our Imports in that Period is no leſs than——————————*L.* 391,824 15 11¼

But it muſt not be imagined, that this Exceſs is a Debt upon *Great Britain* to the Iſland of *Jamaica*; a Part of it muſt be placed to the Account of Negroes ſent to the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies* by our *South Sea* Company, the Produce of which is returned to *England* by way of *Jamaica*; another Part of the Debt due to our *African* Traders, from the People of *Jamaica*, for the Negroes, which are purchaſed and remain there for the Service of the Iſland; a Third Proportion muſt be placed to the Account of our Northern Colonies on the Continent of *America*, who diſcharge part of their Balance with *Great Britain*, by Conſignments from *Jamaica*, ariſing from the Proviſions and Lumber with which they ſupply that Iſland, all which will appear more fully in the following Articles: The remaining Part of the Exceſs, in our Importations from this Colony, is Profit made upon our Trade, whether immediately from *Great Britain*, or by way of *Africa*; and laſtly, it is a Conſideration of great Importance in the General Trade of *Great Britain*, that part of the Sugar and other Merchandize which we bring from *Jamaica*, is re-exported from hence, and helps to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries in *Europe*.

The Particulars with which *Jamaica* is ſupplied from the *Britiſh* Colonies of *North America*, are, Flour, Biſcuit, Corn, Beef, Pork, Butter, Salt, Fiſh, Rice, Staves, Hoops, Timber in ſeveral Shapes, and Horſes; great Part of which is paid for in Rum, Sugar, Moloſſes, Ginger, with other Productions and Merchandize of the Iſland, and the Balance diſcharged with Money, ſome Part of which, as hath been already obſerved, is remitted to *Great Britain*.

From

From the Coaſt of *Africa* large Numbers of Negroes are carried to *Jamaica*, of which many are re-exported from thence by the *South Sea* Company, to make good their *Aſſiento* Contract with the *Spaniards*; another Part of them are re-exported by Private Traders, both to the *Spaniſh* and *French* Settlements in their Neighbourhood; ſome are ſent to the *Britiſh* Colonies in *North America*, and the reſt are purchaſed by the People of the Iſland, to carry on their Sugar Works and Plantations.

We cannot enumerate the Particulars which *Ireland* exchanges with *Jamaica*, our Office not being ſupplied with Cuſtom Houſe Accounts from that Kingdom; but in general it appears, from Accounts tranſmitted to us by the Naval Officers in *Jamaica*, that *Ireland* has always ſupplied that Iſland with large Quantities of Beef, Pork, Butter, and other Proviſions; for which it is to be preſumed, the Returns are generally made to this Kingdom, becauſe the People of *Ireland* have not, till very lately, been allowed to bring Home any Part of the Product of the Plantations directly to *Ireland*, and even, at this time, are reſtrained to ſuch Commodities, as are not enumerated in our Acts of Navigation.

From the Iſland of *Madera* the People of *Jamaica* import large Quantities of Wine; and from the Bay of *Honduras* they are ſupplied with great Quantities of Logwood, in Exchange for Proviſions and other Neceſſaries which they furniſh to the Logwood Cutters.

With Regard to the Strength and Fortifications of *Jamaica*, the Military Eſtabliſhment there conſiſts of Nine Regiments of Militia, with their ſuperior and ſubaltern Officers, all of them commiſſioned by the Governor, agreeable to an Act of Aſſembly, for regulating the Militia in this Iſland.

By our laſt Returns from the Governor of *Jamaica* upon this Subject, it appears that in 1730, the Number of White Inhabitants did not exceed 7,644 Perſons, and the Militia, including Horſe and Foot, was then computed at 3,000 Men, diſperſed over all the inhabited Part of the Iſland.

For ſome Years paſt there have been Two Independent Companies of His Majeſty's Forces quartered in *Jamaica*; and His Majeſty hath lately been pleaſed to order Six other Independent Companies, of One hundred Men each, to be tranſported thither for the Defence and Protection of this Colony.

There are Six Forts in *Jamaica*, the principal of which is *Fort Charles* at *Port Royal*, lately rebuilt, and in a good State of Defence: The Second is called the *Rock Fort* upon the Harbour of *Kingſton*: There is a Third lately built at *Port Antonio*; and the other Three which are called *Fort William*, *Fort Morant*, and the *Fort* at *Carliſle Bay*, are in very bad Repair.

Fort Charles has a Captain and a Lieutenant, with other ſubaltern Officers, and Twelve Gunners: There is a Captain of the Train of Artillery

Artillery in *Spaniſh Town*; and we are in conſtant Expectation of hearing, that proper Officers are appointed for the new Fortification at *Port Antonio*; which is all that we have to offer to your Lordſhips, in Anſwer to that Part of your Addreſs, which relates to the preſent State of the Trade, the Strength, and Fortifications of *Jamaica*.

We come now to give your Lordſhips an Account of the like Particulars, with Regard to the Iſland of Barbadoes, *which was ſettled more early, and hath been improved with more Induſtry and Vigour, than any other of His Majeſty's Territories in* America.

THE Iſlands comprized in His Majeſty's Commiſſion to the Governor of this Colony, are, *Barbadoes*, *Ste Lucia*, *Dominico*, St. *Vincent*'s, *Tobago*, and the reſt of His Majeſty's Iſlands, Colonies, and Plantations in *America*, commonly called by the Name of the *Charibbee Iſlands*, lying to the Windward of *Guardaloupe*; but of theſe only the Iſland of *Barbadoes* is regularly ſettled, whoſe natural Productions are, Rum, and Moloſſes, Ginger, Cotton, Aloes, and ſeveral kinds of Fruits.

Sugar is the principal Commodity in the Trade of this Iſland, which conſiſts in an Exchange of that, and its other Productions, for the Manufactures and Merchandize of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and the *Britiſh* Colonies on the Continent of *America*, and Slaves from *Africa*.

The general Exports from *Great Britain* to *Barbadoes*, between *Chriſtmas*, 1728, and *Chriſtmas*, 1732, according to their Valuation in the Cuſtom Houſe Books, amounted, at a Medium of thoſe Years, to ——— ——— ——— ——— ———*L.* 85,780 15 7 *per Ann.*

Our Imports from *Barbadoes*, at a like Medium of the ſame Years, amounted to ——— ——— ——— ——— ———*L.*246,599 13 10¼

Therefore the annual Exceſs of our Imports from this Colony, during that Period, was ——— ——— ——— ———*L.*160,818 18 3¼

There is little or no Variation between the Commodities which *Barbadoes* receives from *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, or our Northern Colonies in *America*, and thoſe which we have already enumerated to your Lordſhips under the Title of *Jamaica*; and the Exceſs of our Imports from *Barbadoes* muſt be accounted for in the ſame manner, by Money due to *Great Britain* from our *American* Colonies, and for Slaves brought to *Barbadoes* by our *African* Traders.

With

With Regard to the Strength and Fortifications of this Iſland, which being the moſt Windward of all His Majeſty's Colonies in *America*, is therefore of very great Importance, on Account of its Situation: It appears from the Anſwers we received to our general Queries, from the Governor of this Colony, in the Year 1724, that there were in *Barbadoes* no leſs than 22 Caſtles and Forts, and 26 Batteries mounted with 463 Pieces of Ordnance; but it was computed at that time, that about 100 Pieces of Cannon were wanting to compleat the Fortifications; that moſt of the Cannon in the Iſland were honey-combed; all the Fortifications in a ruinous Condition; and all the Military Stores and Arms in the Magazines gone to decay; all which having been lately repreſented to the King, by the preſent Governor and Council of *Barbadoes*, it is not to be doubted, but that His Majeſty will be pleaſed to give proper Directions thereupon.

The Militia of this Colony conſiſts of one Troop, two Regiments of Horſe, and ſeven Regiments of Foot, of which, two bear the Title of Guards. The Number of Men contained in theſe Corps is always relative to that of the White Inhabitants; for by the Act of Militia, all Freemen are obliged to enter themſelves in the Regiment of their own Diſtrict. In 1724, there were 18,295 White Perſons in *Barbadoes*, amongſt whom they reckoned 4,812 Men able to bear Arms, which was therefore the Number of the Militia; and theſe, with a few Matroſſes and Gunners, for the Management of their Batteries, is all the Military Force of this Iſland.

We now come to give your Lordſhips an Account of the Leeward Iſlands.

THE Territories which compoſe His Majeſty's Government of the *Leeward* Iſlands, are, *Antigua*, St. *Chriſtopher's*, *Nevis*, and *Mountſerrat*, with their Dependencies; *Barbouda*, and *Anguilla*, *Spaniſh Town*, *Tortola*, and the reſt of the *Virgin Iſlands*.

The Commerce of theſe Colonies is almoſt entirely the ſame with that of *Barbadoes*; They have Trade with *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*, the *Britiſh* Colonies of *North America*, *Madera*, and *Africa*; and the Goods they import from theſe Countries, and exchange with them, are of the ſame kinds with thoſe enumerated under the Titles of *Jamaica* and *Barbadoes*.

The annual Value of our Exports to the *Leeward Islands*, between *Chriſtmas*, 1728. and *Chriſtmas*, 1732. amounted, at a Medium of thoſe Years, to —— —— —— —— —— ——*L.* 69,410 15 9½

The Medium of our Imports from thoſe Colonies, during the ſame Period, was —— —— —— —— —— *L.*642,269 9 6½

So that the annual Exceſs of the latter, was —— *L.* 572,858 13 9 which muſt be accounted for in the ſame manner with the Exceſs of our Imports from *Barbadoes*.

Ireland ſupplies the *Leeward Islands* with Beef, Pork, Butter, Herrings, and Salmon, as likewiſe with Linen Manufactured in that Kingdom, to the Amount, as it has been computed, of 40,000 *l. per Annum*, the Value of which is balanced by the Sugar and other Productions of thoſe Countries, returned to *Great Britain*.

On the Coaſt of *Africa*, the People of the *Leeward Islands* have ſometimes purchaſed Negroes with their own Rum, which is a valuable Commodity in *Guinea*, and with the Goods which they import from *Great Britain* for that Purpoſe.

At the *Maderas*, they buy large Quantities of Wine, which they pay for with Negroes and Proviſions, or by Bills of Exchange drawn upon *London*.

To the *Britiſh* Colonies in *North America*, they ſend Rum and Moloſſes, in Exchange for the Products of thoſe Countries, which we have already deſcribed.

Amongſt the *Virgin Islands*, which are very numerous, and extend about 60 Leagues from Eaſt to Weſt, only three, *Anguilla*, *Spaniſh Town*, and *Tortola*, are as yet fully inhabited by His Majeſty's Subjects.

Theſe have no immediate Intercourſe with *Great Britain*, or any Part of *Europe*, and their Commerce hath hitherto been ſo inconſiderable, as not to deſerve the Eſtabliſhment of Cuſtom Houſe Officers to ſuperintend it.

As to the Strength and Fortifications of theſe Colonies, in the Year 1724, there were 12,420 Whites in all the Iſlands, who are now reduced to 10,262 Perſons, of which Number there are 3,284 Men, and conſequently the Militia cannot exceed that Number, whereas in 1724, it conſiſted of 3,513 Men, divided in the following manner;

In	*Antigua* ——	1,400
	St. *Chriſtopher's* —	1,200
	Nevis —— —	300
	Montſerrat ——	350
		3,250
In	*Anguilla* ——	85
	Spaniſh Town ——	78
	Tortola ——	100
	Total	3,513

The

The Fortification of greateſt Importance in the Iſland of *Antigua*, is *Monks Hill Fort*, which is at preſent mounted with 30 Pieces of Ordnance of different Sizes, and has a Magazine with about 400 Muſkets, and 700 Bayonets, in good order: There is alſo another Fort in this Iſland, erected at the Mouth of St. *John*'s River, mounted with 14 Pieces of Cannon; and Seven other Batteries raiſed for the Defence of ſo many landing Places, which together are mounted with 46 Pieces of Ordnance.

The principal Fortification in the Iſland of St. *Chriſtopher's*, is a Fort erected on *Brimſtone Hill*, which is furniſhed with 49 Pieces of Cannon of different Dimenſions, and contains a Magazine, which is at preſent ſupplied with 16,000 Pounds of Powder, 700 Firelocks, 500 Bayonets, and ſome other Military Stores.

Charles Fort is another Fortification of this Iſland, which is furniſhed with 46 Pieces of Ordnance, of different Dimenſions, and a ſufficient Quantity of Military Stores. Mr. *Mathew*, the preſent Governor of the *Leeward Islands*, informs us, that they are now imployed in repairing and compleating the Fortifications of *Londonderry Fort*, ſituated to the Eaſtward of the Town of *Baſſeterre*, which will protect that Side of the Iſland, and there are Six other Batteries in St. *Chriſtopher's*, erected at ſo many landing Places, which together are mounted with 43 Pieces of Ordnance.

There is only One old Fort in the Iſland of *Nevis*, mounted with 19 Guns; and One Fort or rather a Battery of Seven Guns in the Iſland of *Montſerrat*, excluſive of a ſmall Number of old diſmounted Cannon, formerly planted for the Defence of different landing Places: And theſe Two laſt mentioned Iſlands ſeem at preſent to be incapable of putting themſelves into a better Poſture of Defence, having ſuffered very much from the Enemy in the late War, to whoſe Depredations they would be very much expoſed in caſe of another.

We come now to ſpeak of the Bahama Iſlands, *which are of Importance to* Great Britain, *on Account of their Situation, and when they ſhall once be fully peopled and cultivated, may alſo come to be conſiderable for their Productions and Commerce.*

THESE Productions are Salt, which is made in the Iſland of *Exuma*, and other of the *Bahama's*, in ſo large a Quantity, as would be ſufficient to ſupply all the *Engliſh* Colonies in *America*; Large Sugar Canes, Mahogony, Cedar and Pine fit for building Veſſels, Palmetto Trees, which afford a Production called *Plat*, of

of which they make Hats equal to thoſe of *Bermuda*, Manchineel Prince Wood, *Lignum Vitæ*, Brown Ebony of a ſtrong Aromatick Scent, with great Quantities of Braziletto, Fuſtick, and other Dying Woods; Senna, Gum Elemi, Guiacum, Maſtick, with ſeveral other Gums and Medicinal Drugs; Citrons, Oranges, Limes, and other kinds of fine Fruit, are all ſaid to be produced in the *Bahama's*; their Pine-apple is thought to be the beſt in *America*, and their Soil is capable of bearing moſt Sorts of Proviſions, as well as Cotton, Ginger, Sugar, Tobacco, and in general every Thing that is produced in any Part of the *Weſt Indies*.

They have great Plenty of Turtle. They find large Quantities of Ambergreece upon their Coaſts, and make Train Oil of the Whales and other Fiſhes which they take there.

From the Year 1723, to the Year 1728, it was computed that all their Imports from this Kingdom did not exceed the Value of *L.* 2,000 *per Ann.* divided upon Woollen and Silk Manufactures, *Eaſt India* Goods, Linen, Shoes, Haberdaſhery, and Small Wares, a ſmall Quantity of Spice and Grocery, Stationers Goods, Arms, Ammunition, Cordage, Anchors, and ſome other ſmall Articles.

They likewiſe take a ſmall Quantity of Proviſions from *Ireland*, as well as from *South Carolina* and other Parts of *America*, which laſt are paid for with Turtle and Fruit, and in exchange for their Salt, they import the Sugar and other Productions of *Jamaica*.

In the Year 1728, they computed Five hundred White Perſons on the Iſland of *Providence*, which is the only one of the *Bahama*'s that is peopled in any Degree, out of whom they have formed Six Companies of Militia, which with one Independent Company in His Majeſty's Pay, is all the Military Force in theſe Iſlands.

For many Years paſt there hath been one Fort in the Iſland of *Providence*, and in 1728, they began to build another, to command the Eaſt Entrance of the Harbour, which are all the regular Fortifications in the *Bahama*'s.

It now remains, that we give your Lordſhips an Account of the like Particulars in the Bermuda *or* Summer Iſlands;

WHoſe Productions are Cedar, Palmetto Trees, and Train Oil drawn from the ſmall Whales that are taken on their Coaſts, with ſmall Quantities of Tobacco, Pine-apples, Oranges, Onions, Potatoes, and Cabbages.

Of

Of the Tops of Palmetto Trees they make the abovementioned Straw called *Plat*, which is worked up in Hats for the Uſe of Women, which bear the Name of theſe Iſlands: But the moſt material Article in their preſent Trade, is that of Sloops built of their own Cedar, which are diſtinguiſhed likewiſe by the Name of the Iſlands, and are equally remarkable for their Form and the Excellency of their ſailing.

The People of *Bermuda's* build annually between Twenty and Thirty Sloops, which generally ſail out in Ballaſt to the Salt Iſlands, from whence they carry Salt to ſome Part of the *Engliſh* Continent of *America*, where they traffick for Lumber and Proviſions; and when they are not able to purchaſe a Cargoe, they take one in upon Freight, and ſo ſail to the *Britiſh* Iſlands in *America*, or from one Part of the Continent to another, and having at laſt diſpoſed of their Sloop, they return to *Bermuda's* in order to build a new Veſſel for an Adventure of the like nature.

This is the ordinary Round of Trade purſued by Four Parts in Five of all the Veſſels that are ſent out of the *Summer Islands*; and by the Sale of theſe Sloops, the *Bermudians* are ſupplied with Pieces of Eight, and with Sugar, Rum, Rice, Cocoa, Pitch and Tar, Logwood, and other dying Stuffs, Deer Skins, and other Productions of *America*, which being added to their Plat, and ſent to *England*, they are thereby enabled to take off large Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, *Eaſt India* Goods, Linen, Houſhold Furniture, Haberdaſhery, and in general all thoſe Commodities which are comprehended by Merchants under the Denomination of Dry Goods.

In the Year 1729, there were upwards of 5,000 White Perſons in the *Summer Iſlands*, who are divided into Eight Tribes; and the Militia conſiſts of one Company of Foot drawn from each Tribe, which together form a Regiment of about 1,000 Men; and theſe with one Independent Company in His Majeſty's Pay, and one Troop of Horſe of about 100 Men, excluſive of Officers, is all the Military Force in theſe Iſlands.

The Fortifications in the *Bermuda's* are the *King's Fort*, mounted with 29 Pieces of Ordnance, and Six other open Batteries, mounted with 41 Guns, but for ſeveral Years paſt they have all been in a very ruinous Condition.

HAVING thus deſcribed the preſent State of our Iſland Colonies in the *Weſt Indies*, with reſpect to their Trade, their Strength, and Fortifications; we come now to that Part of your Lordſhips Addreſs, which requires us to give our Opinion of what may be further neceſſary for the Encouragement of the Trade, and Security of theſe Iſlands; whereupon we beg leave to obſerve to your Lordſhips, that as Sugar is the Production of greateſt Conſequence in *Barbadoes*, the *Leeward Iſlands*, and *Jamaica*, the Proſperity of thoſe Colonies will therefore depend in great Meaſure upon the Conſumption of that Commodity in His Majeſty's Dominions, and the Price it will ſell for in the other Markets of *Europe*.

The uſe of Sugar in this Kingdom has augmented very much in the laſt 30 Years, which is undoubtedly owing to the increaſed Conſumption of Tea and Coffee within that Period; but on the other Hand, our Exportations of this Commodity have of late Years diminiſhed very conſiderably, which muſt be attributed to the great Encreaſe of the *French* Plantations, and the large Quantities of Sugar brought into *Europe* from thoſe Settlements, as well as by the *Dutch* and *Portugueze*, which may be afforded, and are actually ſold much cheaper than Sugars imported from the *Engliſh* Colonies.

The principal Cauſes that concur in creating this Difference in the Price between *Engliſh* and Foreign Sugar, are the great Charges attending our Navigation, the high Duties impoſed upon our Sugars at Importation, the Importation of *French* Sugars into *Ireland*, and above all, the great Expence our Planters are at in cultivating this Commodity; ſome of our Sugar Iſlands being almoſt worn out, eſpecially *Barbadoes*, where many more Hands, and much more Manure are requiſite than in the freſh Lands lately planted by the *French* in *Hiſpaniola*, and other Parts of the *Weſt Indies*.

With reſpect to the Charges of our Navigation, it would be impoſſible to give our Traders any Relief in this Particular, without breaking through ſome eſtabliſhed Cuſtoms, and making great Alterations in ſeveral Laws, by which many general Charges have been impoſed upon Shipping, for the Repair of Peers and Light-houſes; but they have long been deſirous of the Liberty of carrying their Sugars directly to all the *European* Markets, to the Southward of *Cape Finiſterre*; and we would humbly ſubmit it to your Lordſhips, whether ſuch a Liberty might not be granted under proper Reſtrictions.

They likewiſe propoſe, that the Reduction ſhould be made upon the Duties payable upon Rum imported into *Great Britain*, apprehending that ſuch a Reduction would not interfere with the Sale of our *Britiſh* Spirits, but rather with *French* Brandies and other Foreign Spirits, which carry great Sums of Money out of the Kingdom, whereas Rum is paid for in our own Manufactures.

With reſpect to the Advantage which the *French* derive from the Freſhneſs of their Sugar Plantations, it is impoſſible to preſcribe any Remedy which might put our Planters in *Barbadoes*, and the greateſt Part of the *Leeward Iſlands*, upon a Par with them in this Particular, becauſe, as we have already obſerved, the Soil of thoſe Countries, eſpecially *Barbadoes*, is much exhauſted.

But in the Iſland of *Jamaica* there are very large Tracts of Lands proper for bearing Sugar Canes, and capable of moſt other *American* Productions, which have not yet been cultivated; and we are ſorry to obſerve to your Lordſhips, that the moſt fertile and beſt ſituated Lands in this Colony have been formerly granted to private Perſons in ſuch exorbitant Quantities, that at preſent there remains very little or no Land for the Reception of new Comers, unleſs they purchaſe it at a very high Price, except in ſuch Parts of the Iſland as are very much expoſed, and lie under ſuch Diſadvantages as may juſtly deter Men from ſettling upon them.

We

We conceive the beſt Means of promoting the Proſperity of *Jamaica*, and of ſecuring the Poſſeſſion of it to *Great Britain*, would be to take all poſſible Methods to people it with White Inhabitants, and to encourage every kind of Agriculture proper for the Soil, and capable of being carried on by People of ſmall Subſtance; but though we have long underſtood this to be the principal Intereſt of *Jamaica*, we conceive it impoſſible to invent Methods of attracting new Inhabitants thither, whilſt the Lands of the Country remain confined, as they are at preſent, in the Poſſeſſion of a few wealthy Planters.

The People of *Jamaica* have appeared ſo ſenſible of theſe Truths, and of the ill Conſequences that might ariſe from them, that in the Year 1722. they made a Law for veſting all ſuch Lands in the Crown, for which the Proprietors had paid no Quit Rents, within a certain time, upon Condition that the Lands, ſo forfeited, ſhould be regranted in ſmall Parcels to new Inhabitants, under certain Conditions mentioned in the Act.

Four other Acts were afterwards paſſed; for purchaſing more Land to the Publick; for the Uſe and Encouragement of New-comers; for building a Town to be called by the Name of *Portland*; and for forming a Settlement at *Port Antonio*, which is a Port of Conſequence in the North Eaſt Part of *Jamaica*.

But either theſe Acts were inſufficient to effectuate the Purpoſes for which they were deſigned, or the Execution of them hath been evaded, or the Intention of them weakened by ſubſequent Laws; becauſe thoſe Lands have not been purchaſed by new Inhabitants, but for the moſt part lie ſtill uncultivated, and the Iſland is more deſtitute than ever of White Inhabitants.

We are humbly of Opinion therefore, that if the People of *Jamaica* will not be induced to frame an Act, which may diveſt particular Perſons of thoſe extenſive Tracts which now lie uncultivated, this may be a proper Subject for the Conſideration of the *Britiſh* Parliament, by whoſe Authority an effectual Method may be taken, to reaſſume thoſe ancient Grants that have hitherto been uſeleſs, even to their Owners, as well as the Publick; or otherwiſe, to put the Proprietors under a Neceſſity of cultivating them.

This Reform in the State of *Jamaica* will be the more neceſſary, as it is, in reality, the only Means that can effectually provide for the Domeſtick Happineſs of that Iſland, or ſecure the Poſſeſſion of it to *Great Britain*; and on the other hand, were that once done to the Extent the Country is capable of, it would not only be in a Condition to defend it ſelf againſt any Force that could be raiſed by the future Enemies of *Great Britain* in *America*; but might alſo prove a Bulwark to the reſt of His Majeſty's Sugar Plantations, and be able to give them Aſſiſtance, in caſe of a Rupture with the *French* Colonies in their Neighbourhood, which from the Freſhneſs and Fertility of their Soil, joyned with other Advantages in Commerce, are become very flouriſhing and proſperous.

It remains that we mention two other Points to your Lordſhips, which are eſſential to the Proſperity of all His Majeſty's Plantations, and eſpecially to the Iſland Colonies; *namely*, That the Care which hath hitherto been had to guard the Coaſt of *Africa*, by Ships of War, from Pirates, be duly continued, that ſo the Rate of Inſurance, which is an heavy Clog upon Commerce, may be kept low, and our Colonies receive a conſtant Supply of Slaves, without which they cannot poſſibly ſubſiſt: *Secondly*, That in Time of War, ſuch a Squadron of *Britiſh* Ships may be ſtationed in the *Weſt Indies*, as may be able to give the Law to our Enemies at Sea; without which all other Diſpoſitions that can be made in our Dominions there, will be fruitleſs; and the *French*, in caſe of a Rupture with that Crown, will be able both to invade our Plantations, and prey upon our Navigation, in ſuch a manner, as might in a ſhort time prove fatal both to one and the other.

From the Deſcription we have given your Lordſhips of the *Bahama Iſlands* in the foregoing part of this Repreſentation, it might be highly reaſonable to expect great Advantages in Trade from Countries that abound with Productions of ſo rich a Nature, if thoſe Iſlands were fully peopled; but hitherto the Number of their Inhabitants hath been too ſmall to admit of a conſiderable Trade, and until they ſhall be encreaſed, we cannot propoſe any new Improvements with reſpect to their Commerce.

We beg leave however to obſerve to your Lordſhips, that theſe Iſlands, which lie in the Gulph of *Florida*, and near the Windward Paſſage, may, from their Situation, prove of great Conſequence to this Kingdom, in caſe of a Rupture with *Spain*, by receiving ſuch light Frigates, as may be ſtationed there for the Protection of our own Trade, betwixt the Iſlands and Continent of *America*; or for intercepting *Spaniſh* or *French* Ships in their Voyages between *Europe* and the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies*.

The *Bermuda* or *Summer Iſlands*, having for many Years been well peopled and cultivated, their Commerce hath been extended as far as can well be expected from ſuch ſmall Colonies; nor can we add any thing to the Account we have already given of it to your Lordſhips in this Report, unleſs they ſhould be induced to turn ſome part of their Land into Vineyards, which might probably produce as good Wine as the *Madera's*.

Theſe Iſlands lie in the midſt of a very tempeſtuous Ocean, and are ſurrounded by a Chain of Rocks, moſt of which lie under Water, when the Tide is at the higheſt, ſo that their Security from the Invaſions of foreign Enemies ſeems to be provided for by their natural Situation; and indeed it is affirmed by Voyage Writers of the beſt Authority, That the *Spaniards* never thought of planting a Colony in theſe Iſlands, and made no other Uſe of their Diſcovery, than to avoid them in their Navigation between *Europe* and the *Indies*.

With

With Regard to your Lordſhips Addreſs of the 5th of *April*, 1734. that we ſhould reviſe and conſider the ſeveral Propoſals, that may at any time have been laid before us, relating to ſuch Encouragements as may be neceſſary to engage the Inhabitants of the *Britiſh* Colonies on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Induſtry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and likewiſe of ſuch other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the ſaid Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*; we beg leave to acquaint your Lordſhips, That we have frequently repreſented the great Advantage that would ariſe to this Kingdom, from receiving ſuch Supplies of Naval Stores from our *American* Colonies, as might render us independent of our Northern Neighbours, in an Article ſo highly important to the Defence, the Trade, and Navigation, of *Great Britain:* We have never failed to urge the Neceſſity of this Propoſition, upon all fit Occaſions, and the Legiſlature have often made it the ſubject of their Conſideration. Hence the ſeveral Acts have taken riſe, which heretofore gave *Præmiums* upon the Importation of Naval Stores from the *Britiſh* Colonies in *America*, which were attended with ſo good Succeſs, as to reduce the Price of ſome of thoſe Stores very conſiderably, particularly of Pitch and Tar.

But as all theſe Acts expired in 1725. except thoſe that related to Hemp, we therefore thought it our Duty to repreſent in the Year 1727. that it might be neceſſary to ſettle new *Præmiums* upon Naval Stores, imported from our Plantations, though not in the ſame Degree as they had been given by the former Acts; and a Law did paſs in the ſucceeding Seſſion of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for better Preſervation of His Majeſty's Woods in* America, *and for the Encouragement of the Importation of Naval Stores from thence, and to encourage the Importation of Maſts, Yards, and Bowſprits, from that Part of* Great Britain *called* Scotland; by which, Proviſion was made againſt the Deſtruction of His Majeſty's Woods in *America*, and *Præmiums* ſettled upon the Importation of Maſts, Yards, and Bowſprits, Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine; ſo that Iron is the only Article of Naval Stores which remains deſtitute of any Encouragement upon Importation into this Kingdom from our *American* Colonies.

The Deputy Governor of *Maryland* hath informed us, by his Letter dated the 16th of *October* laſt, that if Iron was eaſed from the preſent Duty of Importation, a large Supply of that Commodity might be imported into this Kingdom from *Maryland*, and the Neighbouring Provinces.

He is alſo of Opinion that very good Wine might be made there, if the Inhabitants had proper Encouragement to attempt ſo new a Thing.

The Deputy Governor of *Pennſylvania* acquaints us, in his Letter dated the 31ſt of *October* laſt, that this Province produces Hemp and Iron, which laſt is generally allowed to be as good as any whatſoever, and, that upon proper Encouragement, *Pennſylvania*, and the Neighbouring Colonies, might be able to ſupply *Great Britain* with conſiderable Quantities of this neceſſary Commodity.

He adds, that Flax is found to agree ſo well with their Soil, that it is not to be doubted, but a conſiderable Progreſs will ſoon be made in raiſing this Commodity: That the Mulberry Tree grows ſo naturally, and the Silk-worm thrives ſo well there, as to give them a diſtant Proſpect of a Silk Manufacture; and that ſome Eſſays have been made towards the manufacturing of Pot-aſhes, which he believes would, with ſuitable Encouragement, be brought to Perfection.

The Governor of *South Carolina*, in his Letter of the 9th of *November* laſt, acquaints us, that hitherto Rice, Tar, and Pitch have been the Staple Commodities of that Province; but that they have lately made ſome Progreſs towards the raiſing Hemp, and that Perſons of Judgment believe that good Flax might alſo be produced there, if neceſſary Encouragement was given for the Propagation of it: They have made ſome Diſpoſitions both here and in *Georgia*, for manufacturing Pot and Pearl Aſhes, and they have lately propagated a large Number of White Mulberry-trees for the Subſiſtence of Silk-worms, in hopes of accompliſhing a Silk Manufacture: Their Soil is alſo thought capable of producing good Vines; and they have hopes, that ſeveral valuable Drugs might be produced in *Georgia*, which they deſign to bring from *Natolia*, *Syria*, and other Places in the Streights, that lie in the ſame Latitude with this Province: But the Governor adds, that *Præmiums* are neceſſary to bring theſe Undertakings to perfection, which *South Carolina* is not at preſent able to give; to which he adds, this Province likewiſe abounds with live Oak, Cyprus Trees, and other kinds of Timber, which would be proper for the Uſe of the Navy, if ſuch Bounties were ſettled upon them as might anſwer the great Expence of Freight to this Kingdom, and by that means make it practicable to import them.

It may be proper for us to acquaint your Lordſhips under this Head, that the Liberty given by an Act paſſed in the Third Year of His preſent Majeſty, for *Exporting Rice directly from* South Carolina *to any* European *Ports Southward of* Cape Finiſterre, has had a very good Effect, and it being now near expiring, we would beg leave to ſubmit to your Lordſhips, whether it may not deſerve to be continued.

A Bill did formerly paſs the Houſe of Commons, wherein the Encouragement propoſed for importing Iron in Pigs and Sows from *America*, was, the taking off the Duty payable upon it at Importation, which amounts to Three ſhillings and nine pence half-peny *per* Ton; and this Encouragement would, in our Opinion, engage the Planters to furniſh us with ſuch Quantities of Iron in Pigs and Sows as might be ſufficient for the Uſe of our Manufactures.

We import annually into this Kingdom about 20,000 Tons of this Commodity, the greateſt Part of which is brought from *Sweden*, and paid for with ready Money; ſo that in our humble Opinion nothing could be more prudent, or indeed more neceſſary for the Welfare of *Great Britain*, than to give ſuch Encouragement to the Importation of Iron from our Plantations, which abound both with Oar and Wood for the Uſe of the Furnaces, as might render us independent of our Northern Neighbours, for a Supply of a Commodity ſo eſſential to the Support of our Fleet, and of our Navigation in general.

We annually import from *Sweden* only about 14,300 Tons, which, computed at no more than 10 *l. per* Ton, would amount to upwards of 143,000 *l.* the which we pay to that Kingdom in ready Money; and therefore an Encouragement upon the Importation of this Commodity may be the more neceſſary at this time, becauſe the People of *America* having diſcovered ſeveral Iron Mines, and ſet up Forges, it is to be feared, that they will work up their Iron in Manufactures, which may be prejudicial to thoſe of this Kingdom, if ſome effectual Means be not found out to induce them to import it in Pigs and Sows into *Great Britain.*

Thus we have laid before your Lordſhips what hath occurred to us, concerning the Cultivation of Naval Stores, and ſuch other Products as may be proper for the Soil of our *American* Colonies; and as ſome of them, particularly the Northern Provinces, do very much reſemble *England* in their Climate, Soil, and Productions, we conceive that the moſt natural and the only effectual Method of keeping the People there from raiſing Sheep, and eſtabliſhing ſuch Manufactures as might in time be detrimental to the Trade and Manufactures of *Great Britain*, will be to continue the preſent Bounties upon Naval Stores, and give Encouragement to the Importation of Iron, and ſuch other Particulars as the Wiſdom of the Legiſlature ſhall think advantageous for *Great Britain* to have from thoſe Countries, as may induce them to apply their utmoſt Induſtry in the Improvement of ſuch neceſſary Commodities, of which there will always be a conſtant and large Conſumption in His Majeſty's Kingdoms.

All which is moſt humbly ſubmitted.

Whitehall, January 14, 1734-5.

WESTMORELAND.

P. DOCMINIQUE.

T. PELHAM.

EDW. ASHE.

ORL° BRIDGEMAN.

M. BLADEN.

AR. CROFT.